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3679

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of )

Examiner: ERIC K. NICHOLSON )

THOMAS L. WELSH, )  
GLENN E. BURKET and )  
JOSEPH E. DICK )

Group Art Unit 3679 )

Confirmation No. 9215 )

Serial No. 09/975,917 )

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Filed: October 10, 2001 )

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of this RESPONSE was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop NON-FEE Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this February 9, 2004.

For: CONNECTOR AND )  
METHOD OF )  
MANUFACTURE )  
Sherry L. Leonardi

## TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Enclosed are the following documents:

Response (w/attached Certificate of Mailing)

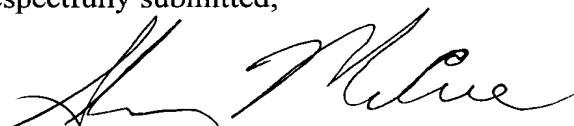
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## AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 9, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: FLN.P0002



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*Sherry L. Leonard*  
Sherry L. Leonard

RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action Action mailed November 7, 2003, the Applicants, through their attorney, respond as follows.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.